

## Crime Prevention Tips

Follow our Winter Nights advice

As the nights get darker...

- Before leaving your home make sure you have locked both your front and back doors and your windows. Almost a third of properties are burgled due to an insecure door or window.
- Consider leaving a light on before you go out when it's dark. It's a fact that properties left in darkness are more likely to be targeted by burglars.
- Close your curtains when heading out for the night.
- If you have a house alarm – please use it!
- Ensure car headlights are in working order, and avoid dazzling other drivers.
- Pedestrians - be safe and be seen – wear something bright when out and about after dark.

When the weather gets colder...

- Drivers - make sure your vehicle is secure when clearing windscreens of snow or ice.
- Snowballing is fun - but it could turn into anti-social behaviour or even a criminal offence if snowballs are aimed at cars or passers-by.

# 5



Altogether Better Policing

## Good Reasons to be Confident in Durham Constabulary

Overall crime and anti-social behaviour is going down every year.

Detection rates are rising.

We respond to 90% of our immediate priority calls within set targets.

We answer nine out of ten emergency calls within ten seconds.

Eight out of ten people in County Durham and Darlington think we do a good job.



L70-11



Altogether Better Policing

# CROOK

## Police News

Issue 1

### Farmwatch delivers successes

The Farmwatch initiative to combat rural crime is going from strength to strength, with the latest operation being one of our most successful to date.

Farmwatch involves teams of officers working with volunteers from across the rural area. Many of these are farmers and their staff who form a network of 'eyes and ears' linking in with the officers to report suspicious activity, people or vehicles.

They will do this on a regular basis throughout the year, and will also take part in specific overnight operations on selected dates.

In the latest operation a total of 80 volunteers from Weardale, Teesdale, Derwentside, Bishop Auckland, North Yorkshire and Cumbria joined 60 police officers from the three forces.

As a result, seven men were arrested and later charged with a range of offences.

Criminals don't work to geographical boundaries and they will find from these arrests that police don't either. All those arrested live within County Durham and Darlington.

The arrests were made by officers from Cumbria, North Yorkshire and County Durham who had met for a joint briefing.

We're determined to keep the region safe from travelling criminals who target rural areas.

Sixty of the volunteers were plotted across rural Weardale and Teesdale and we would welcome new members who want to get involved.

The arrests included three men held at Lunedale, on the road between Middleton-in-Teesdale and Brough, near the border with Cumbria.

They were charged with going equipped for theft and possessing a bladed article.

Three men from the Darlington area who were stopped in Barton on suspicion of being in a stolen vehicle were charged with a combination of offences, including taking a vehicle without consent, theft from a vehicle and handling stolen goods.

During the night of the operation a burglary was committed in Wolsingham in which £16,000 worth of power tools were stolen. The following morning a search of a property in Bishop Auckland led to the recovery of the property. A 31-year-old man from Bishop Auckland was charged with burglary.

Farmwatch demonstrates the value of local police working with local communities. Watch out for other similar operations in the future.

**Kevin Tuck**  
Neighbourhood Inspector  
Crook

### Your PACT Meetings



Have your say about policing in your community by attending one of our Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings. Check out the 'events' section of your local police team website pages or contact your local team for meeting dates, times and locations.

[www.durham.police.uk/local/south/crook](http://www.durham.police.uk/local/south/crook)





## Out and About

Local residents are being offered the use of a stamping kit to mark lead on their property to protect it against thieves. We know that metal theft is a cause for concern for many people, and that's why we're taking action to prevent it. The kit allows users to put their postcode onto items so that they can be identified if stolen. It's a preventative measure aimed at stopping the theft in the first place. If you are interested in using the stamp, please contact a member of your local team.

After complaints from residents about anti-social behaviour and verbal abuse in the Billy Row area, we've taken action to resolve the problems. A family at the centre of the complaints have now moved on from the area, and police are working hard to ensure that the same problems don't emerge in a new location.

Local police action has seen a number of positive results for community concerns. In Edmundbyers a repeat offender was issued with a Dog Control Order; after the theft of a car in Stanhope a man from Sunderland was convicted; in Frosterley a number of young offenders met the victims of their crimes to offer compensation and an apology as part of the 'restorative justice' process; in Stanhope and Frosterley local concerns about speeding drivers were addressed and over 300 motorists were prosecuted and offered various methods of speed reduction advice.

Your local police team has taken action to tackle anti-social behaviour in Howden-le-Wear. Operation Newfield, which ran on November 8, 9 and 10, brought together teams of police officers, PCSOs, an anti-social behaviour coordinator, an alcohol worker, plus the manager of the fire service. The teams carried out high visibility patrols in the area and the community CCTV van was also used.

As a result of this activity 16 youths were stopped and spoken to, and 11 anti-social behaviour forms submitted. Two youths from the village have since been given Anti Social Behaviour Contracts to try and stop their offending behaviour.

We took action after members of the public in Crook raised concerns about people selling counterfeit cigarettes to school children. Five houses in the Willington area were searched earlier this year as part of a multi-agency operation coordinated by the local police team. As a result, four people appeared in court in November and were bailed to attend again in early 2012. They have been charged with 36 offences in total, in relation to counterfeit goods, failing to pay duty, benefit offences and Proceeds of Crime (POCA) offences.

PC Sherry Kenyon from Crook is working with Parkside School to organise a play about home safety and bogus callers. The audience will be made up of local elderly residents. We hope the performance will get across some important crime prevention messages.

A number of our local Neighbourhood Watch members have been named winners in the Durham Police Authority Community Awards scheme. Jenny Sanderson from Coundon won in the 'caring' category, Harold Wilshire from Billy Row won in the 'serving' category, and the West Auckland Lakes Estate won in the 'achieving' category. They received their awards at a ceremony at Ramside Hall on December 1, where they were thanked for their outstanding commitment and contribution to their local communities.

Action was taken following reports from local residents about anti-social behaviour and underage drinking in the Crook area. Working with a number of partners, we ran a series of meetings in Crook police station with specific youths who had previously caused local problems. We then carried out targeted patrols in areas that were identified as hotspots for this type of nuisance. During the patrols 30 youths were spoken to, ten referred to the ASB officer, 17 referred to the 4Real alcohol worker and 19 containers of alcohol were seized and disposed. All in all a great success!

... down your way

Any information ring 0345 60 60 365 and ask for your local neighbourhood team.

## Your Neighbourhood Inspector



I am Kevin Tuck, the Neighbourhood Police Inspector for Weardale and Teesdale.

I have responsibility for both rural dales and have the support of three neighbourhood policing teams based at Crook, Stanhope and Barnard Castle. I have policed Teesdale for a number of years. My aim is to work with residents and key stakeholders at Crook and Weardale to identify and address local issues of crime and disorder.

## Your Local Neighbourhood Policing Team

### Muggleswick

PC 828 Helen Pearson  
PCSO 6629 Tracy Bilton

### Willington and Oakenshaw

Sgt 1648 Shaun Davis  
PC 1168 Simon Schofield  
PCSO 7036 Nicola Firby  
PCSO 7408 Rachael Turner

### Upper Weardale, Edmundbyers, Hunstanworth and Sunnyside

Sgt 2141 Dave Lyall  
PCSO 6629 Tracy Bilton  
PC 828 Helen Pearson

### Howden-le-Wear, North Bitchburn, High Grange and Witton-le-Wear

Sgt 1648 Shaun Davis  
PC 250 Ian Craggs  
PCSO 7184 Rebecca Carey

### Billy Row, Roddymoor and Stanley Crook

Sgt 1648 Shaun Davis  
PC 1833 Geoff Moore  
PCSO 6942 Anna Maria Murray

### Tow Law

Sgt 2141 Dave Lyall  
PCSO 6823 Richard Strong  
PC 2249 Michael Rutherford

### Wolsingham

Sgt 2141 Dave Lyall  
PCSO 6906 Stephen Urch  
PC 1433 Ellis Hutchinson

### Stanhope

Sgt 2141 Dave Lyall  
PC 1080 Billy Crampsie  
PCSO 7437 Trevor Patterson

### Crook Town

Sgt 1648 Shaun Davis  
PC 1833 Geoff Moore  
PCSO 6942 Anna Maria Murray  
PCSO 7317 Leanne Dunn  
PCSO 6388 Helen Robson  
PC 2153 David Turner

### Sunnybrow and Hunwick

Sgt 1648 Shaun Davis  
PC 1168 Simon Schofield  
PC 250 Ian Craggs  
PCSO 6439 Sherry Kenyon

### Frosterley

Sgt 2141 Dave Lyall  
PCSO 7437 Trevor Patterson  
PC 1080 Billy Crampsie

## Contact Us

### Main Station:

Crook Police Station,  
South Road,  
Crook,  
Co. Durham,  
DL15 8NE  
Email: crook@durham.pnn.police.uk

### Front counter staffed:

10am to 3pm Monday to Friday

Outside these hours an intercom system and CCTV facility is available to link callers to the Communications Centre.

**DURHAM CONSTABULARY**  
0345 60 60 365  
NON EMERGENCY NUMBER

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